

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-3 and 11-13 have been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,310,956 to Morito et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,965,680 to Endoh.

The present invention is directed to an information processing apparatus including storage means, acquisition means, means for deciding whether or not copying is allowed in accordance with a comparison between temporal data stored in a database and the current time. The duplication of the content to be copied is prohibited if an interval of time between the current time and the time of duplication of the content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than a predetermined amount of time. Likewise, the present invention provides an information processing method wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited if an interval of time between the current time and the time of duplication of the content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than a predetermined amount of time.

Morito et al disclose that recording of digital data is prevented if the time difference between the transmission time, which is embedded in the digital data, and current time is greater than a threshold value. However, Morito et al do not disclose prohibiting the duplication of the content if a predetermined amount of time has not passed since the same content was duplicated. Moreover the temporal data is not embedded into the content, but is stored in a database.

Appl. No. 09/622,517
Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2003

Endoh is not believed to address this deficiency. Therefore, Morito et al are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by the present claims when considered alone or in combination with Endoh.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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